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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /091 W
----------121559 140436Z /73
R 130622Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 687
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2204

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: XF
SUBJECT: KUWAITI CAUTION REGARDING NUMEIRI'S ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 1605, (B) KUWAIT 2023 (NOTAL).

1. KUWAIT PRESS OF APRIL 12 REPORTS KUWAITI DEP PRI MIN/FON MIN SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD AS SAYING THAT THE NUMEIRI COMMITTEE ON ARAB SOLIDARITY WILL MEET APRIL 22 IN KHARTOUM AND THAT KUWAIT WILL JOIN THE COMMITTEE "IF ALL ARAB STATES ASKED TO JOIN AGREE TO DO SO." HE ADDED THAT NUMEIRI HAS PROPOSED A MEETING AT THE FON MIN LEVEL. PRESS STORIES INDICATE THAT ONLY THE YAR AND UAE HAVE, SO FAR, EXPRESSED UNQUALIFIED WILLINGNESS TO JOIN.

2. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT SAUDI ARABIA ALSO AGREED TO JOIN
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APRIL 10 (REF A) BUT HAVE NOT SEEN OFFICIAL WORD THAT ANY OF THE "STEADFASTNESS" COUNTRIES ARE ONBOARD. FROM THE TENOR OF SHAIKH SABAH'S REMARKS, IT APPEARS THAT KUWAIT HAS BEEN ASKED TO JOIN, BUT MAY BE WAITING FOR ONE OR MORE "STEADFASTNESS" ACCEPTANCES. KUWAITI CAUTION HERE MARKS A CHANGE IN AT LEAST THE PUBLIC GOK POSITION -- KUWAIT HAS EARLIER REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO JOIN WITHOUT

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QUALIFICATION (REF B). KUWAITIS UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVE THAT CHANCES TO ACHIEVE THAT ARAB UNITY, WHICH IS A CONSTANT OBJECTIVE HERE, WILL IMPROVE GREATLY WITH THE PRESENCE OF A MEMBER OF THE "STEADFASTNESS" GROUP ON THE COMMITTEE. MOREOVER, THE GOK'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PLO WOULD MAKE THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE SERVING ON A COMMITTEE COMPOSED ONLY OF MODERATE, ESSENTIALLY PRO-SADAT GOVERNMENTS.
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